

FEBRUARY 1974

AT THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

Dates & Times: Matinee, 2:30 p.m., Wednesday
February 13

Evenings, 8:00 p.m., Wednesday
and Thursday, February 13-14

Place: May Treat Morrison Auditorium

Speaker: Lawrence W. Swan

Subject: "THE UPPER LIMITS OF LIFE: The
Ecology of the High Himalaya"

Having been born and having received his early education in the area, Dr. Swan's interest in the Himalaya has been a continuing thing. In 1954 he was with the American Himalaya Expedition to Makalu, 27,824 feet, in East Nepal, and in 1960-61 was a member of the Himalayan Scientific and Mountaineering Expedition led by Sir Edmund Hillary. But this is but one part of his exploring which has also occurred in Mexico, Africa, the Galapagos, Australasia and New Guinea to mention but some.

These meetings are concerned with Dr. Swan's interest in the environmental factors that limit the altitudinal distribution of plants and animals — from man to bacteria — in the Himalaya and other mountain ranges and include some comparison between altitudinal limits and polar limits. And, as an extra added fillip, Dr. Swan will compare briefly the earthly limits of life and the possible environmental limits of life on the planet Mars.

Dr. Swan is a Professor of Biology, San Francisco State University, and a Research Associate in the CAS' Department of Herpetology.

Through avid collecting on his travels, Dr. Swan has generously contributed thousands of specimens to various Academy departments.

Three presentations as indicated and your membership card will admit you through the main entrance of Cowell Hall. At the matinee performance you will be asked to show it once again at the auditorium entrance.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"NINETEEN-SEVENTY-FOUR" continues in the Theatre of the Stars through February 24. This sky show takes a look at "what's up" during the next twelve months — celestial events, natural and man-made, due to take place.

Performances daily at two with evening shows, Wednesday through Sunday, at eight. Extra matinees at 3:30 on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Closed Monday and Tuesday nights. Admission one dollar for adults and half-price for those 17 and under.

Coming February 28: "THE ENDS OF THE EARTH."

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

"SELECTIONS FROM THE RIETZ COLLECTION" are being presented in Lovell White Hall for an indefinite period. A gift to the Academy from the Rietz family, the total collection concerns itself with the storage, preparation and serving of food world-wide. Of particular interest is a marvelous display of ancient textiles which line the walls.

"THE PREHISTORIC CAVE PAINTINGS OF FRANCE AND SPAIN" by Douglas Mazonowicz are on display in the Hohfeld Gallery adjacent the Hall of Space Science. Any of the prints on exhibit may be ordered direct from the artist. Continues through the end of the month.

"CETACEA" — a major exhibit devoted to marine mammals continues in Cowell Hall for an indefinite period.

ADVANCE NOTICE. Following are the established dates for future Academy membership meetings which you may wish to mark on your calendar: March 13-14 and April 10-11.

News and Notes



Detail from a portrait by John W. Koenig

The late Dr. Harriet Exline, a Fellow and Research Associate of the Academy for a number of years, was a leading authority on American spiders, who also worked on Pycnogonids (sea spiders), and in the field of micropaleontology. Born in Walla Walla, Washington, in 1909, she graduated from Reed College in 1930 and obtained the Ph.D. degree at the University of Washington in 1936. In 1937-38 she held a Sterling Fellowship at Yale University, where she worked with Alexander Petrunkevich, the best known spider expert in the United States.

In 1938 she was married to Donald L. Frizzell, a graduate of the University of Washington who had obtained his doctorate in Paleontology at Stanford University. He was at this time a geologist for the International Petroleum Company, with his headquarters in Negritos, Peru. Returning with Don to Peru, Harriet immediately took up a study of the spiders of Peru and Ecuador, on which she published four papers.

After about five years they returned to the United States, and for a time each held an appointment at the University of Washington, Harriet in Zoology, Don in Paleontology. In 1945 they moved to the University of Texas, where Don had been appointed to an Associate Professorship. In 1948 he found a position

more to his liking at the Missouri School of Mines (later renamed the University of Missouri at Rolla) where he attained the rank of Professor of Geology in 1952. There Don and Harriet remained the rest of their lives. Both unfortunately died at a rather early age, Harriet in 1968 and Don in 1972.

I was well acquainted with both of them several years before their marriage. I had the good fortune to have Harriet as my teaching assistant at the University of Washington for five years at a time when I had assignments in two departments, Zoology and Oceanography. She was brilliant, energetic, effective and buoyant. Don was quieter, but likewise brilliant and versatile. They were a very congenial couple. Each had his own interests, and only rarely (once I think) did they publish a joint paper. But each was interested in the work of the other, and I suspect that — regardless of designated authorship—they were constant collaborators.

The estate of Dr. Donald L. Frizzell was recently settled. He left a bequest in excess of \$100,000 to the California Academy of Sciences as a memorial to his wife, Dr. Harriet Exline Frizzell, to sponsor research on spiders. It has been decided to call this *The Don L. and Harriet Exline Frizzell Fund for Arachnological Research*. "Lovely and pleasant in their lives, in life and in death they were not divided."

Robert C. Miller

New occupants now grace the "Fountain of Whales" courtyard. Flanking the exterior entrance of Steinhart Aquarium is a pair of graceful, beautifully-wrought terrazzo sea lions, sculptures created by and presented to the Academy by Victor J. ("Trader Vic") Bergeron of San Francisco as a memorial to the late Wilson Meyer. Also, through Mr. Bergeron's good offices, a Beniamino Bufano bear now reposes adjacent the buffet. This fine sculpture was a gift from "Trader Vic" to the San Francisco Museum of Art that has graciously placed it in the Academy's keeping on an indefinite loan so that it may be enjoyed by the thousands of natural history buffs who migrate toward Golden Gate Park.

The three elegant pieces are an aesthetic delight and fit beautifully into their appropriate surroundings.

MEET THE CHAIRMAN



PAUL L. DAVIES, JR., newly-elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Academy, is a native Californian, born in San Jose and a product of its public schools. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Stanford University (with great distinction) in 1952, and his J. D. degree from Harvard Law School (cum laude) in 1957. He was admitted to the California Bar Association in that same year. From 1952-1954, he was an officer in the United States Army.

In the world of business he was first an associate and is now a partner in the San Francisco law firm of Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro. He is also a Director of the FMC Corporation (Chicago) as well as the Industrial Indemnity Company (San Francisco).

There has always been time, however, for public service activities. He is a member of the Board of Regents, University of the Pacific at Stockton and Vice-Chairman, and the Board of Overseers of the Hoover Institution at Stanford. As the new Chairman of the Academy Board he succeeds E. Morris Cox who served in that capacity for six fruitful years.

He and his wife Barbara reside in Piedmont with their two children, Laura and Paul Lewis III, but every bit of spare time is spent at their Morgan Hill ranch where they have hunters which are often in the show ring. Mr. Davies enjoys duck hunting and is a strong booster of both local baseball teams.

We cordially invite you to consider enrolling in one of the seven education programs scheduled to begin this month. They are:

"Biology of Arachnids". Feb. 4-May 13, 7-9 p.m. \$40.

"Geology of the Bay Area". Feb. 4-April 22, 7-9:30 p.m. \$40.

"Care of Fresh and Saltwater Aquarium Fishes". Feb. 6-April 10, 7-9 p.m. \$30.

"Determinative Mineralogy. Feb. 7-May 23, 7-9 p.m. \$40.

"Sculpture and Model Making in the Natural History Museum". Feb. 7-April 11, 7-10 p.m. \$50.

"Music of the Non-Western World". Feb. 7-April 25, 7-9:30 p.m. \$40. (This course was postponed from the original January starting date).

"Evolution of Cosmology". Feb. 20-May 8, 7-9 p.m. \$35.

If you wish to pre-register or are interested in receiving San Francisco State University extension credit, check with the Education Office at the Academy, 221-5100, Extension 11.

TRAVEL NOTE . . . Academy Expedition to Australia, September - November 1974. Two groups of 20 persons each will depart this fall for Australia and South Island, New Zealand. Each 35-day group will be accompanied by a senior staff member of the Academy. The routing stresses countryside and remoter areas rather than cities. Ample time is provided for hiking within the National Parks, and for individual activity.

Group #1 leaves on September 27 and returns October 31, 1974. Group #2 departs on November 8 and returns December 12. For prices and further information please telephone Gulliver's Travel at 346-4400.

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